

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1 (currently amended). An electronic apparatus for training an animal, comprising:

2 (a) a housing supported against the animal's skin by a strap;

3 (b) first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a surface of the housing;

4 (c) control circuitry in the housing including output terminals producing
5 predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes;

6 (d) a non-conductive stabilizing member connected to a location of the
7 surface of the housing that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus
8 electrodes,

9 whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing
10 member are pressed against the skin of the animal and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of
11 the first and second stimulus electrodes against the skin of the animal to reduce the occurrence
12 [[and/or]] and severity of skin sores.

2 (canceled).

3 (canceled).

4 (canceled).

1 5 (original). The electronic apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second
2 stimulus electrodes includes an elongated conductive probe coupled to the control circuitry and
3 an insulator surrounding a portion of that stimulus electrode, an end portion of that stimulus
4 electrode extending only sufficiently far beyond the insulator to avoid substantial shunting of
5 electrical stimulus current between the first and second stimulus electrodes through the animal's
6 fur when the animal's fur is wet.

1 6 (original). The electronic apparatus of claim 5 wherein the end portion of each
2 stimulus electrode extends approximately 1/10 of an inch beyond the insulator of that stimulus
3 electrode.

1 7 (currently amended). A collar-mounted electronic apparatus for training an
2 animal, comprising:

3 (a) a housing supported by a collar for attachment to the animal's neck;

4 (b) first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a top surface of the
5 housing;

6 (c) control circuitry in the housing including output terminals producing
7 predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes;

8 (d) a non-conductive stabilizing post connected to a location of the top
9 surface of the housing that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus
10 electrodes so that conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and a tip of the
11 stabilizing post define a triangle,

12 whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing
13 post are pressed against the neck of the animal and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of the
14 first and second stimulus electrodes against the neck of the animal to reduce the occurrence
15 [[and/or]] and severity of neck sores.

8 (canceled).

9 (canceled).

10 (canceled).

1 11 (currently amended). An electronic apparatus for control of nuisance
2 vocalizations by a dog, comprising:

3 (a) a housing supported by a strap against the dog's skin;

4 (b) first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a surface of the housing;

5 (c) a sensor supported by the housing for producing signals in response to
6 vocalization by the dog;

7 (d) control circuitry in the housing having an input coupled to an output of the
8 sensor, the control circuitry including output terminals coupled to produce aversive stimulus
9 signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes in response to the signals produced in
10 response to the vocalization by the dog;

11 (e) a non-conductive stabilizing member connected to a location of the
12 surface of the housing that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus
13 electrodes so that conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and a tip of the
14 stabilizing post define a triangle,

15 whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing
16 member are pressed against the skin of the dog and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of the
17 first and second stimulus electrodes against the skin of the dog to reduce the occurrence
18 [[and/or]] and severity of skin sores.

12 (canceled).

13 (canceled).

14 (canceled).

1 15 (currently amended). A collar-mounted electronic apparatus for control of
2 barking by a dog, comprising:

3 (a) a housing supported by a collar for attachment to the dog's neck;

4 (b) first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a top surface of the
5 housing;

6 (c) a vibration sensor supported by the housing for detecting vibrations
7 caused by barking by the dog;

8 (d) control circuitry in the housing having an input coupled to an output of the
9 vibration sensor, the control circuitry including output terminals coupled to produce aversive
10 stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus electrodes in response to barking by the
11 dog;

12 (e) a non-conductive stabilizing post connected to a location of the top
13 surface of the housing that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus
14 electrodes so that conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and a tip of the
15 stabilizing post define a triangle,

16 whereby conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing
17 post are pressed against the neck of the dog and prevent rocking of the conductive tips of the first
18 and second stimulus electrodes against the neck of the dog to reduce the occurrence [[and/or]]
19 and severity of neck sores.

1 16 (original). The collar-mounted apparatus of claim 15 wherein the heights of the first
2 and second stimulus electrodes and the stabilizing post are at least approximately equal.

17 (canceled)

18 (canceled).

1 19 (currently amended). A method of training an animal, comprising:

2 (a) supporting an electronic training device against the animal's skin, the
3 electronic training device including a housing and first and second stimulus electrodes connected
4 to a surface of the housing and control circuitry in the housing including output terminals
5 producing predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus
6 electrodes; and

7 (b) preventing rocking of the conductive tips of the first and second stimulus
8 electrodes on the skin of the animal by providing a non-conductive stabilizing member that is
9 connected to a location of the surface of the housing and that is offset from a straight line
10 between the first and second stimulus electrodes wherein conductive tips of the first and second

11 stimulus electrodes and the tip of the stabilizing member are pressed against the skin of the
12 animal and stabilize the electronic training device so as to prevent the rocking and thereby
13 reduce the occurrence [[and/or]] and severity of skin sores.

1 20 (currently amended). An electronic apparatus for training an animal, comprising:

2 (a) means for supporting the electronic training device against the animal's
3 skin;

4 (b) a housing and first and second stimulus electrodes connected to a surface
5 of the housing;

6 (c) control circuitry in the housing including output terminals connected to
7 produce predetermined aversive stimulus signals between the first and second stimulus
8 electrodes; and

9 (d) non-conductive stabilizing means that is connected to a location of the
10 surface of the housing and that is offset from a straight line between the first and second stimulus
11 electrodes for preventing rocking of conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes
12 on the skin of the animal wherein conductive tips of the first and second stimulus electrodes and

13 the tip of the stabilizing member are pressed against the skin of the animal and are prevented
14 from rocking and thereby reduce the occurrence [[and/or]] and severity of skin sores.